ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S (24th) ANNUAL REPORT, 1899.

ROCK HOUSE,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,

20th FEBRUARY, 1900.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit once more my Annual Report, together with the usual official tables A and B of the Local Government Board as to the amount of sickness and mortality, also those for the County Council.

I have the satisfaction to record a reduction in both the *General and Zymotic Death Rates.*

The former, estimated on a population of 5,175 to the middle of the year, being 21·4 against 25·3 for 1898, and exactly that of the average for the immediate decade.

The Zymotic Rate is 2·75 against 5·13 in 1898. The average for the immediate decade being 3·71

The Infantile Death Rate still runs high, being 242 as against 247 in the previous year. As will be seen from the following table 50 per cent. of the children born dying within the first year of life, in which table also the causes are named.

DEATHS IN INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
Respiratory Diseases	6	16	9	18	9	18
Intestinal (Gastro, Enteritis) ...	6	10	6	8	10	7
Wasting Diseases of Infancy ...	4	8	7	11	12	14
Convulsive ,, ,, ...	10	2	10	2	11	10
Tubercular ,, ,, ...	...	...	...	1	4	2
	26	36	32	40	46	51
Zymotic: Scarlatina	...	2	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	1	1	2	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	3	2	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	3	...	12	5
	26	39	39	44	58	57

Advanced Life. The average age of 5 males and 5 females dying beyond 65 was 71·7 years.

Uncertified Deaths numbered seven.—Two cases of drowning and one fatality in mine occurred to persons not belonging the district, and one death from natural causes and two colliery fatalities of persons belonging the district occurred outside the area.

There were nine *Inquests* held concerning 3 deaths from drowning, 3 from mining operations, 1 burn, 1 fall, 1 suicide.

The *Birth Rate* on the estimated population was 45·4.

Registered Births:	Males,	108;	Females,	127;	Total,	235
,, *Deaths*:	,,	60;	,,	51;	,,	111
		48		76		124

bringing the population to 5,224 on 1st January, 1900.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ITS MORTALITY SINCE ADOPTION OF ACT.

										Mortality.								
Name of Schedule.	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
Scarlatina ...	20	74	13	10	52	42	29	37	27	1	5	2	0	5	1	1	4	1
Erysipelas ...	3	4	6	3	8	13	7	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Memb. Croup...	3	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	5	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Fevers. Typhoid	1	3	5	2	8	14	2	5	10	...	1	3	...	...	3	2	1	1
Fevers. Continued	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Fevers. Puerperal	1	...	...	1	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
	28	88	25	20	70	73	39	50	44	2	7	6	4	5	6	4	5	3
Not in Schedule:																		
Measles										6	...	15	...	6	10	3	4	2
Whooping Cough										...	5	4	2	8	3	2	...	1
Diarrhœa... ...										...	...	3	3	1	3	2	17	8
										8	12	28	9	20	22	11	26	14

Table **A**: Summary of Deaths at subjoined ages:—

Under 1 year ...	57	Total under 5 ...	75
1 year to 5 years ...	18		
5 years to 15 years ...	4	Total over 5 years	36
15 ,, 25 ,, ...	6		
25 ,, 65 ,, ...	16		
65 ,, and upwards ...	10		
	111		111

Analysis of Causes of Mortality.—Scarlatina 1, (under 5); Diphtheria 1, (over 5); Enteric 1, (over 5); Measles 2, (under 5); Whooping Cough 1, (under 5); Diarrhœa 8, (7 under, 1 over 5); Phthisis 4, (over 5); Respiratory Diseases 34, (25 under, 9 over 5); Heart Disease 1, (over 5); Injuries 9, (over 5); and all Other Cases 47, totals 75 over and 36 under 5=111.

Sickness during the year.—Scarlet fever, of a very mild form was notified every month except January, April and August; of the twenty-seven cases under notice one-third only were in children under 5, the other two-thirds over that age. Twenty-one houses were concerned, there being in six two cases. With the exception of 2 Bolton House Road, and 2 Bickershaw Lane, (probably imported from Hindley in month of May), one in Talbot Road, Plank Lane, in June; and three in Bamfurlong District November and December: the disease spent itself from February to November. along the Warrington Road. In two instances there was overcrowding—in another, the house was damp while in another the gully was defective. In two or three places the Inspector found cases so mild as to be playing about, or temporarily accommodated with a bed in living room, and unrecognised cases also were found out, hence easy dissemination of diseases, by the neighbours and friends mingling with each other.

Erysipelas was returned five times at varying intervals, all in Warrington Road, but nothing insanitary about the premises seemed to be associated with them, and from *Puerperal* or lying-in fever there was one notification.

Typhoid Fever.—The first case, in February was accredited to 364 Bickershaw Lane; a second at 54, in November. May saw one at 54 Talbot Road, Plank Lane, followed by another in same house in July, which led to a case being reported in October at No. 4, in the subject of a person who had been there (aborted). In Warrington Road, four cases, one in February at 62, one in March at 28, one in Aug. at 87 (contracted in Liverpool ?), and at 114 in December. Crankwood Road a case in November in which the house was in a very bad state of repair. At the first named house in Warrington Road there was great density of the people. The mortality (one) equal to 0·19.

Measles was epidemic at Plank Lane in April, and affected St. Andrew's School, which after due enquiry I found was so general as to advise closure for one month.

Diarrhœa was confined to the third quarter of the year, and shewing a rate of 1·5.

Diphtheria, one case fatal. The notification only arriving two or three days after death, which is useless.

Influenza was prevalent in March and occasioned one death, and in this month *Respiratory Diseases* were pravalent, with seven deaths in children. Indeed the increased death rate, 1·2 above the average, is referable to a continued mortality amoung young children each month of the year, January and September excepted.

Water Supply from Rivington averages from 8 to 9 gallons per head per day of the population, exclusive of that used for trade purposes, is on the constant service system, good and ample.

Scavenging.—The attention of one of the contractors had to be drawn to delay in the Abram Brow and Plank Lane Districts. With this exception it has on the whole been fairly good.

Sewerage.—Much progress has been made during the past twelve months. Bickershaw Lane Brook nuisance being now abated by the property drains being connected with new sewer, and also the major portion of those in Warrington Road, and in a short time all the sewage under this scheme will be arriving at the outfall works. Unforeseen difficulties in connection with the construction of the latter causing some delay, but it is expected shortly to be complete. Mr. Eatock, who is in minute touch with this work, says there are about 290 houses in Warrington Road, 143 in Bamfurlong, and 167 in Bickershaw, or a total of 600, now connected with the new sewer.

As an outcome of periodic inspection I have to refer you to several nuisances and insanitary conditions of property, chiefly in Plank Lane District ; unsatisfactory gullies, overfilled ashpits, defective brickwork at closets, bad state of yards, privy middens, etc. The ownership of Newton Fold has changed hands, with the result of back doors being fixed to the houses, demolishing the old pigstye and delapidated closets, replacing same by new ashpits and closets to each house. At Bamfurlong I found it necessary, from complaints during the summer, to have the banks of the brook disinfected. The pollution of the stream so far as Abram is concerned will now soon been remedied.

Your Inspectors have continued to give their regular attention to Bakehouses (9), Workshops (3), and Slaughterhouses (3) ; to 84 canal boats which passed through, and to Cowsheds, three of which were remaining in abeyance as to improvements at the close of 1898, and now completed. The whole of them are reported as in a satisfactory condition.

In Table C of the County Council correct information with respect to Dairies and Cowsheds is particularly requested, and I beg to hand in a copy memorandum I received from Dr. Sergeant a short time ago *re* Tuberculosis. From which you will gather the close intimacy these have in common in relation to disease in the human subject. I thought this the most opportune time to introduce this deep and interesting subject.

Fumigating and whitewashing after infectious sickness has been regularly carried out.

In concluding my last annual report I named several items as arrears for attention. The first being the absolute necessity for demanding improvements at Owler Farm.

This has been continuously under observation and report for a couple of years. The incessant "pegging away" may have had something to do with the tenant's removal last November, but last week I was called upon for about the third time for details so I sent a copy of my report, although after all the trouble, in place of having the necessary work done while the place was empty, another tenant was allowed to take immediate possession. I trust now, however, the matter will be put right and that without any further procrastination.

The Canal Lock House too at Plank Lane engaged a minute inspection and report at the hands of Mr. Eatock and myself, followed by correspondence and submitting of plans, etc., by owner. The defective state of drains being now mainly in abeyance awaiting your Council's own steps in relation to new sewering in this locality. The second item (Newton Fold) I have referred to. The third was to seek a yearly decrease in the open privy middens. The worst cases should be taken first. The fourth item, connection of house drains to new sewers, and this as already stated is being done. Last was the question of Isolation in Hospital, etc. This is now surely, I hope, in a fair way for definite decision as to some provision being made, or rather perhaps a scheme promulgated for joining Ashton.

The Private Streets Act, 1892, was adopted and came into operation on 1st Oct., 1899. This promises a hopeful step in the right direction, and coupling with it the best endeavours must be made for obtaining improved condition of yards, passages, and back streets. During wet weather only can the nuisance and source of danger to health be fully understood or recognised.

Every house ought to have its own closet. Mr. Eatock summarises for the year as follows:—Nuisances from overcrowding 4, keeping poultry 1, structural delapidations *re* waste pipes and gullies 9, defective drains 1, stopped drains and gullies 34, foul wet ashpits 11, structural defects at ashpits 3.

The first principles of a Sanitary Authority is to aim at securing the best possible conditions for its people, and where the bulk is composed of the industrial classes who are not in the position of choice in regard to such, their protection and safeguard against disease applies equally to all.

Efficient and satisfactory drainage of dwelling-houses and ultimate disposal of sewage without its becoming a source of injury to neighbouring authorities forms one main factor in obtaining that protection, so that your Council shews its earnest desire for a satisfactory result, and at no distant date, in this connection with Sanitary Progress.

Looking forward to yet another year of activity in the subject brought to notice,

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NATHAN HANNAH,

M. O. H.,

F. I. S. of M. O. H's.

K² 3.

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS *during the year 1899, in the* ABRAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT, *classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.*) (a)	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages. At all ages (b)	Under 1 year (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards (h)	(i)	1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Typhus (Fevers)	6 Enteric or Typhoid (Fevers)	7 Continued (Fevers)	8 Relapsing (Fevers)	9 Peuparal (Fevers)	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Measles	13 Whooping Cough	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever	16 Phthisis	17 Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	18 Heart Disease	19 Influenza	20 Injuries	21 All Other Diseases	22 TOTAL
ABRAM	111	57	18	4	6	16	10	Under 5		1										2	1	7			25				39	75
								5 upwards			1			1								1		4	9	2	1	9	8	36

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.				1		2		Under 5																						
								5 upwards																				2	1	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.						3		Under 5																						
								5 upwards																				3		

K² 11.

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, *coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the ABRAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Population at all ages. Last Census. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1899. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5 e	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus (Fevers)	6 Enteric or Typhus (Fevers)	7 Continued (Fevers)	8 Relapsing (Fevers)	9 Peuperal (Fevers)	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13	Number of such Cases removed from their homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital. 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus (Fevers)	6 Enteric or Typhoid (Fevers)	7 Continued (Fevers)	8 Relapsing (Fevers)	9 Puerperal (Fevers)	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13
ABRAM	4309	5175	235	Under 5		9				1											No Hospital									
				5 upwds		18	1			9			1		5															

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? YES. Since when? 1891. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which the said Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.

Districr Council Offices, Abram,

January 3rd, 1990.

To the Chairman and and Members of the District Council of Abram.

GENTLEMEN,

Below I give details of the Boats from the various towns at which they are registered, and I may say there is a decrease in the number of children on them.

TOWN	No. of Boats Inspected.	No, of Children on Boats.	No. of Children of School age.	No. of Cnildren under School age.
Blackburn.....	16	—	—	—
Leigh.....	4	1	—	1
Liverpool	32	2	—	2
Manchester ...	5	—	—	—
Runcorn	14	2	1	1
Wigan	13	—	—	—
	84	5	1	4

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JNO. SMITH.

Statistical Supplement to the Annual Report of the Urban District Council of Abram Sanitary Authority.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 & 1884.

Have you Hospital Accommodation for any case of Infectious Disease met with on a Canal Boat in your Sanitary District? } No.

Is Inspector's renumeration inclusive with payment for other duties? Yes.

Number of Boats inspected in Year 1899	84
Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations	84

Total Number for which the Cabins were registered, 257. Total Number occupying the Cabins 178.

Details of Occupations:	Male Adults	155
	Female Adults	18
	Children of School Age	1
	Children under School Age	4
		178

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